

## DECORATIVE COVING

Coving is the simplest way to finish off a room. Modern lightweight materials do not need special skill to fit, just a little care and attention. Coving is especially useful when a new wall has been erected, a ceiling replaced or settlement has left a gap. This will save you much time by not having to undertake detailed finishing, to such a high standard as not to be seen.

Wickes sell three types of coving:

**Wickes Paper Faced Plaster Coving** is supplied in two sizes; 127mm, 90mm and is three metres long.

**Wickes Lightweight Coving** is supplied in two sizes; 127mm x three metres and 100mm x two metres

**Wickes Duropolymer Coving** is supplied in three sizes; 65mm, 100mm 134mm and is two metres long.

This leaflet shows you how easy these products are to fit, following step by step instructions.



### WHAT IS COVING?

Coving is a concave moulding that runs around the top of an interior wall covering the join between the wall and ceiling, giving a neat finished appearance. Traditionally, coving is made from plaster and faced with paper but times have changed and modern materials have made a lighter, more manageable product. Coving adds value to your home but when planning your project remember that smaller rooms require narrower coving and larger ones should use wider. Always buy more coving than you need. Internal corners can be tricky and involve cutting "mitres" (angled joins). These are pieces of coving you have to cut at an angle, with a panel or mitre saw, preferably using a mitre block to facilitate an accurate angled, internal or external, corner joins. Whilst it is a good idea to make these joins as perfect as possible, if you do get one wrong it's not the end of the world, as any gaps can be filled with a standard filler. When sanded and painted, will not be seen.

Once you have decided which type of coving you wish to use and have bought more than you need for to cover breakages, corners and any mishaps (we all have them), store flat, somewhere dry, where they won't get damaged.

Clear the room as much as possible, covering anything that can't be moved as adhesive is very difficult to remove when dry.

Depending on the height of your ceiling, you will need a Wickes Hop-up or a Combie ladder (5 way with a deck is best) – coving is sold in two or three metre lengths, depending on the type, so you need to be able to move from side to side quickly. Due to its length, it is always a good idea to have help when fitting long runs.

When joining a straight run it is better to have a mitred join, rather than two butted ends as this is easier to fill and smooth, making it less likely to be seen.

**Tip:** If you are unsure about the quality of a join and whether it will be seen; paint the surface with thinned white emulsion paint and allow to dry. Switch on room lights, one at a time, looking at the join from all angles, any irregularities will cast a shadow, these can be sanded or filled as required.

Again, depending on the type of coving being used, the fixing adhesive will vary. For plaster, use Wickes Ready Mixed or Powder Cove Adhesive. When using Wickes Lightweight or Duropolymer Coving, you must only use Wickes Solvent Free Forget Nails. Make sure the surfaces of your wall and ceiling are clear of any covering, clean, sound and dry. Read and closely follow the manufactures' fitting instructions.

**NOTE:** Should you use a product containing solvent, it will melt the coving surface.

### KEEP INFORMED

- Look for other Good Idea Leaflets that could help you with your current project.
- Check that your Good Idea Leaflets are kept up to date. Leaflets are regularly changed to reflect product changes so keep an eye on issue dates.
- If you would like to be put on our mailing list for the Wickes booklet, call our Freephone number which is:  
**0500 300 328**
- Visit our website at [www.wickes.co.uk](http://www.wickes.co.uk)

## DUROPOLYMER COVING

Duropolymmer Coving is an extremely durable and lightweight alternative to traditional plaster and lightweight coving. It is already primed and has clear design features. It can be cut and painted in the same way as plaster coving. This product is easy and quick to install by one person and needs only Wickes Solvent Free Forget Nails to hold it in place. The Wickes Master Range of Duropolymmer Coving is supplied in three sizes with the addition of pre cut Internal/ External corners for 90° angles.

### TOOLS REQUIRED

Pencil, tape measure, straightedge, filling knife, sponge, skeleton gun, hammer and a tenon or fine toothed saw.

### FITTING

1. Depending on the coving width you have chosen, measure and mark the wall using a small piece of coving held in place against the wall and ceiling. Mark the top and bottom edges of the coving at regular intervals around the room.
2. Ensure all loose material, plaster and wallpaper is removed from the marked area.
3. Use Wickes Duropolymmer Internal

and External Corners for 90 degree angles. Use a variable mitre box for other angles, or measure and cut your own mitres. Keep the coving supported and level when using the mitre box. The wall edge of the coving should be against the side and the ceiling edge against the base of the mitre box.

4. Always cut carefully into the curve of the cove using a fine toothed saw. After cutting to size, gently brush down the coving to remove any loose particles.
5. Using Wickes Solvent Free Forget Nails, apply a 5mm diameter bead in a wavy line pattern to the bonding faces of the coving. **Note:** Do not use

solvent-based adhesives.

6. Gently press cove into position and squeeze out any excess adhesive. Work surplus adhesive into any gaps between the cove, wall, ceiling and between the two halves of the corner mitres. Promptly clean off any excess adhesive using a damp sponge.
7. Carefully rub down filled joints with fine sandpaper for a smooth finish.
8. Leave for 24 hours before decorating with Wickes Emulsion.

**Note:** Don't use solvent-based paints.

### PRODUCT RANGE

163-583 Duropolymmer Cove 65mm x 2m Pack 4
163-587 Duropolymmer Cove 65mm Int Corner Pack 2
163-588 Duropolymmer Cove 65mm Ext Corner Pack 2
163-589 Duropolymmer Cove 100mm x 2m Pack 4
163-591 Duropolymmer Cove 100mm Int Corner Pack 2
163-592 Duropolymmer Cove 100mm Ext Corner Pack 2
163-593 Duropolymmer Cove 134mm x 2m Pack 4
163-595 Duropolymmer Cove 134mm Int Corner Pack 2
163-597 Duropolymmer Cove 134mm Ext Corner Pack 2

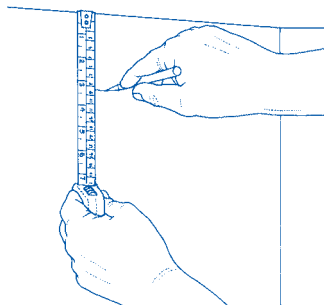
163-586 Duropolymmer Cove 65mm x 2m Single
163-590 Duropolymmer Cove 100 x 2m Single
163-594 Duropolymmer Cove 134mm x 2m Single
240-052 Wickes Solvent Free Forget Nails

## PAPER FACED PLASTER COVING

### FITTING

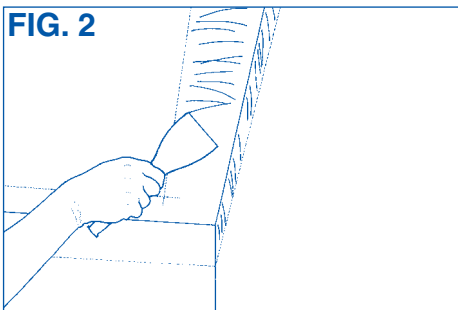
1. If you have chosen 90mm coving, make a pencil line 62.5mm down from the ceiling on the wall and also 62.5mm out from the wall on the ceiling. When using 127mm coving, the measurements are increased to 83mm. **See FIG. 1.**

FIG. 1



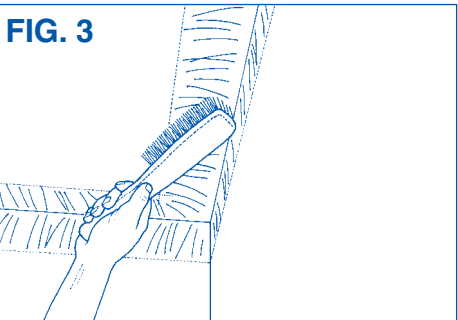
2. With a sharp tool, such as a filling knife, score the area between the lines. If wallpapered, this should be removed in the area between the lines. This will help the cove adhesive to create a better bond. **See FIG. 2.**

FIG. 2



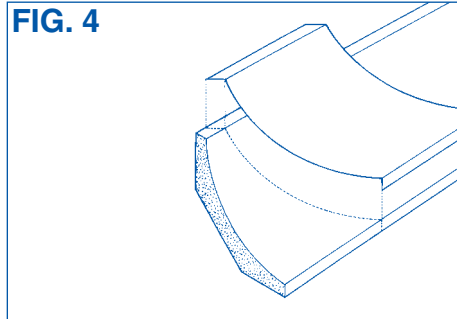
3. Thoroughly brush down the surface and ensure that it is free from loose paint and grease. If the surface is already painted or sealed, apply a coat of Wickes PVA Building Adhesive. This should be diluted to a ratio of 1 part adhesive to five parts water. **See FIG. 3.**

FIG. 3

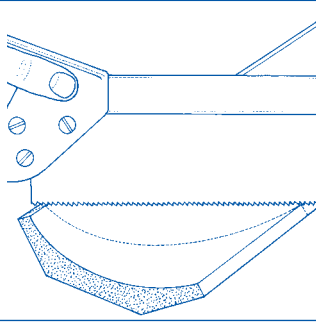


4. If you choose to use a Wickes cove mitre tool, mitre box, or the templates provided, to cut your own mitres you will need to work out how many internal and external corners you require. Each corner requires two mitre cuts  
**See FIG. 4.** The Wickes Cove Mitre Tool is sold in two sizes – 90 and 127mm. This is a simple tool, helping you to cut professional 90° mitres.

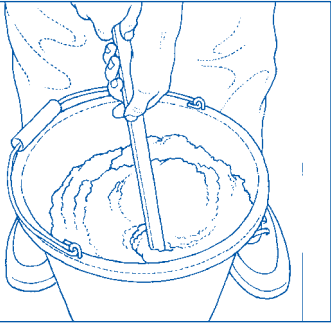
FIG. 4



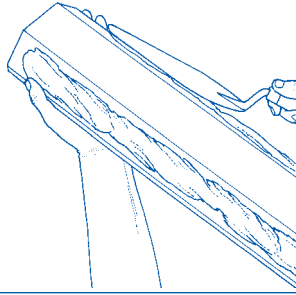
5. When using a Wickes Cove Mitre Tool, mitre box or template, always cut into the curve using a fine toothed saw. **See FIG. 5.**

**FIG. 5**

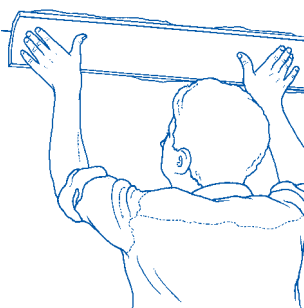
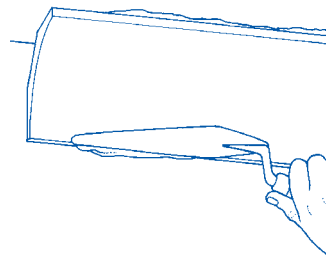
6. Mix up the Wickes Cove Adhesive in a clean bucket with clean water following the instructions on the pack. **See FIG. 6.** Alternatively you can use Wickes Readymix Coving Adhesive, but it is worth noting that this does take a little longer to set.

**FIG. 6**

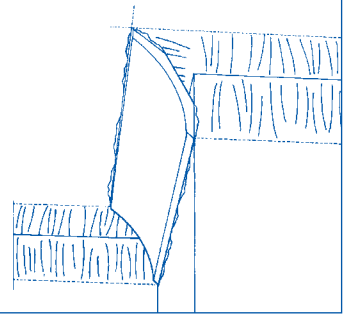
7. With the surfaces prepared and the adhesive ready, you now need to fix the pre-mitred cove corners, if you are using them.
8. After the corners have been fixed in place, apply adhesive to the coving wall edge (this is marked) and the ceiling edge with a gauging trowel or filling knife. **See FIG. 7.**

**FIG. 7**

9. Press the coving firmly into position following the previously marked lines. The initial "grab" is normally sufficient to hold the coving in place, although in some cases additional support can be required by tapping in small nails into the wall and ceiling. These are later removed and the holes filled. **See FIG. 8 & 9.**

**FIG. 8****FIG. 9**

10. Remove excess adhesive and use this to fill any gaps between the cove, wall and ceiling. If you are making your own corners also remember to fill any gaps between the two halves of the corners

**FIG. 10**

and where lengths of coving have been joined. **See FIG.10.**

11. After the adhesive has set, rub down the filled joints taking care not to damage the paper surface. Apply two coats of Wickes Emulsion and allow to dry before decorating.

## PRODUCT RANGE

220-212	127mm x 3m Paper Faced Plaster Coving	Single
220-213	127mm x 3m Paper Faced Plaster Coving	Pack 5
220-222	90mm x 3m Paper Faced Plaster Coving	Single
220-221	90mm x 3m Paper Faced Plaster Coving	Pack 7
220-237	Ready Mixed Cove Adhesive	6L

## LIGHTWEIGHT COVING

Lightweight coving has come a long way since the brittle, badly fitting product of years ago. Wickes Lightweight Coving is ready finished. It looks and feels just as good as traditional plaster coving and can be cut and painted in the same way. This product has the advantage of being quick and easy to install by one person, only needing Wickes Solvent Free Forget Nails to hold it in place. Wickes Lightweight Coving is Supplied in two sizes: 100mm x 2m and 127mm x 3m. Always follow manufactures instructions.

### FITTING

1. Depending on the coving width (127 or 100mm) you have chosen, measure and mark the wall and ceiling as follows:  
100mm coving – make a pencil line on the wall, 75mm down from the ceiling, and on the ceiling, 70mm out from the wall.

**NOTE:** 100mm cove is offset and must be used and cut the same way up every time 127mm coving, both measurements are increased to 83mm.

2. Remove all loose material and wallpaper from the marked area.
3. Unlike plaster coving, use Wickes Solvent Free Forget Nails to fix this product.
4. Decide how you will form your 'mitres'-angle cuts, for the corners. Use a mitre box, which guides your saw at set angles, or measure and cut your own mitres. You will need to work out how many internal and external corners you will require. Each corner requires two mitre cuts.
5. Always, carefully, 'cut into the curve' of the Cove using a fine toothed saw. After cutting to size, gently brush down the coving to remove any loose particles.
6. Apply Wickes Solvent Free Forget Nails to the rear of each piece of measured (and mitred, if required) Cove, to form a continuous ribbon of adhesive along the wall and ceiling edges.

**NOTE:** Don't use solvent-based adhesives.

7. Gently squeeze Cove into position, applying even pressure along the Cove edges, squeezing out excess adhesive. Work surplus adhesive into any gaps between the Cove, wall, ceiling and between the two halves of the corner mitres. Promptly clean off any excess with a damp sponge (you will damage the coving by trying to remove dried on adhesive).
8. Fill any gaps with Wickes Decorators Filler.
9. Carefully rub down filled joints with fine sandpaper for a smooth finish.
10. Leave to dry for 24 hours, then apply two coats of Wickes Emulsion.

**NOTE:** Don't use solvent-based paints.

### HINTS & TIPS

- Plaster coving is quite fragile. Handle with care.
- Wickes Lightweight coving is less fragile, but still needs treating with care.
- Working on your own, Wickes Lightweight Coving can be quicker and easier to put up, and looks just as good.
- Measure twice – Cut once!
- If using self-mix adhesive for plaster coving, don't mix up more than you can use in 30 minutes.
- Don't overstretch when putting up coving. Use a Wickes 5 – Way Combi Ladder with Deck as a platform, this will make the job much safer and easier.

**NOTE:** this is a very versatile ladder, suitable for most jobs around the house.

- Gently use a medium abrasive paper to clean off any rough edges after sawing.
- When joining two lengths of coving, carefully place one piece on top of the other, supporting the free end of the upper length on a piece of waste coving. Adjust to the required length by sliding the upper piece along lower piece. Cut through the overlap at an angle of 45o and remove the excess, then join in the normal way (leaving a 2-3mm gap which should be filled with any excess adhesive or decorators filler). If done carefully, the join will be much less noticeable than butt jointing square ends.



### PRODUCT RANGE

163-561 100mm x 2m Lightweight Coving  
Pk 6

163-559 127mm x 3m Lightweight Coving

240-052 Wickes Solvent Free Forget Nails

### OTHER ITEMS YOU MAY NEED TO COMPLETE YOUR PROJECT

170-008 Wickes 5 Way Combi Ladder  
with deck

224-587 90mm Core Mitre Tool

224-588 127mm Core Mitre Tool

240-693 Wickes Decorators Filler

Whilst every care has been taken to ensure that the product design, descriptions, specifications and techniques of construction are accurate at the date of printing. Wickes products will inevitably change from time to time and the customer is advised to check that the design, descriptions, specifications and techniques of constructing any of the products described in this leaflet are still valid at the time of purchase or placing an order.

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